



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JASPER COUNTY CLEMENTA C. PINCKNEY BUILDING
358 THIRD AVENUE RIDGELAND, SC 29936
JANUARY 6, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order – Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 P.M in order to enter into Executive Session.

Officials Present: Chairman D. Thomas Johnson, Vice Chairman Henry Etheridge, Councilwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV, Councilman Dr. Curtis Brantley

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Acting Clerk to Council Tisha L. Williams, County Attorney David Tedder, Director of Emergency Management Services Chief Frank Edwards, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess, Information Technology Director Earl Bostick, Jr., Public Works & Engineering Director Dale Terry, Planning and Building Director Lisa Wagner

Upon Motion by Councilman Sauls as Councilwoman Clark seconds to enter into Council Executive Session to discuss matters as listed on the posted Agenda, the Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Executive Session

Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that a hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing – [Planning and Building](#)

Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim – [Able Contracting, Club Karma, Sherwood Tract](#)

Discussion regarding development of security personnel or devices – [Information Technology](#)

Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body – Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – [Jasper Ocean Terminal \(JOT\)](#)

Vice Chairman Etheridge moves and Councilwoman Woman Clark seconds the motion to return to Open Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session at approximately 6:45 P.M.

Chairman Johnson asked if there are any matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Councilman Sauls moved to direct the County Attorney with the assistance of the County Administrator, to make certain amendments and edits to the Resolution regarding the timing of the filing of a lawsuit as set forth in Resolution 2019-13, and present such to the Council at it's January 21, 2020 meeting for Consideration. Councilwoman Clark second the motion, all members present voting in favor, Motion passes.

Chairman Johnson asked if there are any other matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Councilwoman Clark moved to convert the Part-time position of Planning and Zoning Technician to a full-time position. Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. All Members present voting in favor. Motion passes.

Vice Chairman Etheridge moved to have Executive Session come to a close,

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Sauls and in unison

Invocation given by Vice-Chairman Etheridge

Election of Officers – Mr. Andrew Fulghum opened the floor to nominations for the seat of County Council Chairman. Councilman Sauls nominated Vice-Chairman Etheridge as Councilwoman Clark second the motion. All Members present voting in favor and Vice-Chairman Etheridge is now the County Council Chairman.

Chairman Etheridge stated that he's been Chairman before and he's waited a while for it to come back. Chairman Etheridge thanked the Council and commended Councilman Johnson on the wonderful job he did as County Council Chairman for the past two years, adding that he only hoped to continue in the same vein of tenacity as Councilman Johnson.

Chairman Etheridge opened the floor for nomination of Vice Chair. Councilman Sauls nominated Councilwoman Clark as Vice Chairwoman as Councilman Johnson seconded the nomination. All members voting in favor and Councilwoman Clark is now the County Council Vice-Chairwoman.

Councilman Sauls had a few words to say about Councilman D. Thomas Johnson and his service as Chairman. Councilman Sauls thanked Councilman Johnson for his dedication to servicing Jasper County, adding how he has put in countless hours and fought many years for the Jasper Ocean Terminal. Councilman Sauls stated how Councilman Johnson loves Jasper County and this is his home and how grateful he is to have had the kindness and support of Councilman Johnson throughout the past few years.

Vice Chairwoman Clark added sentiments stating that Councilman Johnson has done a splendid job, adding how well the Council works together and that ever since Councilman Johnson joined the County Council he's been working on the Port. Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that changing Chairman would not change

Councilman Johnson's assignment and dedication to the Port and thanked Councilman Johnson for his service and dedication adding that he should be commended for the hard work that he does, adding that he rarely sleeps as he takes care of his lovely wife as well as served as the County Council Chairman from sun up to sun down.

Chairman Etheridge thanked Councilman Johnson for his service and dedication adding that he appreciates what Councilman Johnson has done in the last two years, stating that he knows that it's going to be hard shoes to fill. Chairman Etheridge stated that he knows that under his direction and with the help of Councilman Johnson and Council, the County and the Port will continue to grow.

Approval of Agenda

Councilman Sauls moved as Councilman Johnson seconds the Motion to approve the Agenda as previously posted and presented. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes – December 2, 2019

Councilman Sauls moved to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2019 as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes to approve the Minutes.

Adoption of 2020 County Council Meeting Schedule

Councilman Sauls moved to adopt the 2020 County Council Meeting Schedule as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes to adopt the 2020 County Council Meeting Schedule.

Presentations and Proclamations

Jessica Daley – Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) – Public Hearing – Jasper County 2020 Needs Assessment

Due to proper timing needed to advertise the Public Hearing, County Administrator Andrew Fulghum requested that the Public Hearing be deferred until the next County Council Meeting. Councilman Johnson moved as Councilman Sauls seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor and the motion passes to defer the Jasper County 2020 Special Needs Assessment until the next County Council Meeting scheduled 01/21/2020.

Sandy Steele – Southern Carolina Regional Alliance Quarterly Report

Ms. Steele provided an overview of highlights for the year of 2019 adding that there was a slowdown in Activity in the State however it was not the case for our area as it was for some of the other regions. Ms. Steele provided a Summary of projects stating that 44 Active Projects were added as well as 80 new Projects, 60 of the new projects are closed with 14 being announced and the year ended with 49 Active. In Addition, the Carolina Team submitted 276 property submittals to projects for consideration throughout the seven Counties and those resulted in 87 site visits. Of the 276 Property Submittals, 71 were for Jasper County Properties which is up from 2018, and of the 87 site visits 22 of those were for Jasper County Properties. Ms. Steele showed Council the recent advertisement for the new Spec Building and also stated that they are utilizing YouTube as a form to get promotional videos out. Councilman Brantley asked Ms. Steele if she has received any responses from her advertisement of the Spec Building and Ms. Steele replied yes adding that it's still early.

Dr. Rechel Anderson – Jasper County School District – Jasper County Schools Update

Dr. Anderson provided a hardcopy of the update before Council apologizing for not being able to provide the update for everyone to view as the USB flash drive for the Council Chamber was inactive and she was unaware. The Update shows 2018-2019 Instructional Goals to reestablish a positive relationship with Council and businesses adding that the goal was accomplished as the School district has been coming and trying to make sure that any concerns Council has are addressed. Dr. Anderson stated that the District desires to support the growth of the County. The Instructional Framework Goal has been implemented and accomplished. The District has implemented developed data and Integrated Technology so that everyone child has a device and that the areas that are in need of support are focused on. Dr. Anderson stated the State Report Card Rating has improved from Unsatisfactory to Satisfactory. The 2019 Year Ending Financial Audit has taken place and the audit came back with the District being in good standing with their finances. They have also purchased a new activity bus and the students love it. Current students enrolled in Hardeeville Elementary are 673, for Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School 522, Ridgeland Elementary School 890 and for Hardeeville-Ridgeland High School 629 which gives a total of 2,714. Dr. Anderson stated that she will be meeting with some of the Hispanic Parents to make sure that the District is meeting their needs as there has been a rise in enrollment in the area. In January 2020, the District will be launching a Child and Adult care Program through the food service provider, Chartwells, to provide snacks to students, second-time breakfast to high school students, as well as providing dinner to after-school students and athletes. Dr. Anderson stated that they are currently looking to venture out and become a STEM district wide accredited District. Councilman Brantley stated that she and her staff should be commended for the academic progress that's been made this past year and asked Dr. Anderson has she considered what caused the lack of the progress that she expected on the high school level? Dr. Anderson answered stating that she would not say that it was a lack of progress as understanding the accountability model, there is not much that could be done at the High School. The High School's Report Card is based on the previous students performance, therefore the accountability model that's set now is where students are tested per se in the 9th grade but the accountability model looks at those who were tested in the 11th grade, which reflects the data Council is currently viewing in their packet. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked Dr. Anderson for all that she has done for the School District and asked those who were in attendance if they were not pleased by all the hard work that has been done to improve the Schools in Jasper County, based on the expression of those in attendance. Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that everyone needs encouragement and Dr. Anderson as well as the Children should be encouraged for their hard work that they are putting in, adding that when she drives by the Central Office at night, Dr. Anderson is still there. The Audience applauded Dr. Anderson for her hard work. Councilman Sauls also commended Dr. Anderson stating that she has the most challenging and most difficult responsibility and that she's done a marvelous job and to keep up the good work and the Council is there to support her. Chairman Etheridge also commended Dr. Anderson for her hard work and stated that he certainly prays for her to keep up the good work. Dr. Anderson stated that she doesn't take any credit for all the accomplishments as she has Teachers and Leaders who are working around the clock.

Open Floor to the Public

Per ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Chairman Etheridge opens the floor to the Public.

Morris Lawyer

Mr. Lawyer congratulated Chairman Etheridge on his new position as Chairman and stated that he was asked at the previous County Council meeting to attend the Planning Commission meeting in regards to the Manufactured Home Ordinance, adding that they agreed on some things and disagreed on others but that he just wanted to let Council know that he in fact did attend. Council thanked Mr. Lawyer and told him that he did a great job.

Chairman Etheridge closes the floor.

Ordinances

Lisa Wagner – 1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Article 6, Use Regulations, Section 6:1 – Table 1, and Article 11:7, Industry Specific Conditional Use Regulations, of the Jasper County Zoning Ordinance, to allow retail sales of motor vehicles in the Community Commercial Zoning District as a conditional use

Ms. Wagner stated that the proposed Ordinance would allow a small-scale automobile dealership as a conditional use in the Community Commercial Zoning district. Those conditions consist of one acre minimum lot size, automobile hood should not be propped up as a form of advertisement or to draw attention, no banners allowed, the maximum automobiles should not exceed twenty-five, retail sale of automobile parts shall not be allowed, maintenance service or dismantling of automobile shall not be allowed, outside storage shall not be allowed, outdoor speaker systems shall not be allowed. Hours of operation are limited to Monday through Saturday from 8am to 8pm, a structure of 400 square feet must be provided for an office and restroom facility. These conditions are aimed to protect commercial and residential properties. Councilman Sauls stated that he had a question and Chairman Etheridge stated that Council needed a motion to approve first. Councilman Sauls made a motion to approve the Ordinance as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. Chairman Etheridge opened it for discussion. Councilman Sauls asked Ms. Wagner why would she limit the amount of cars for sale if that's the business they are in? Ms. Wagner stated that in the Community Commercial District, it's not an allowed use so what she's trying to do is allow it as a small scale which is why there is a limit to keep in small scale instead of large scale. Councilman Sauls thanked Ms. Wagner for her answer. All Members present voting in favor of the Ordinance, Motion passes.

New Business

Frank Edwards – Request to Approve Advertising for Recruitment of Volunteer Firefighters

Chief Edwards requested approval to enter into a 3-month agreement with Adams Outdoor Advertising to advertise on billboard ads, social media marketing at cost of \$5,270 which 100% is reimbursable by the FEMA grant and Volunteer Grant already received. Councilman Brantley asked Chief Edwards if he has considered going into the local high schools and encouraging high school students to become volunteer firefighters and Chief Edwards answered yes he has, multiple times. Councilman Brantley asked what the response has been received from the Students and Chief Edwards stated that the Students are still trying to

figure out what they want to do as some are interested and some are not as they have not received many applications. Councilman Sauls made a motion to approve request as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion, all members voting in favor and motion passes.

Councilman Sauls moves as Councilwoman Clark seconds the Motion, All Members present voting in Favor and the Motion passes.

Sandy Steele – Professional Services Proposal – Sherwood Tract Cemetery

Ms. Steele stated in regards to the Sherwood Tract progress, there is a Cemetery located in the middle of the tract and Southern Carolina have worked with Mr. Fulghum and Jasper County to secure a grant for the relocation of the Cemetery. Alliance Engineers has proposed to do the work and it will be completed covered by grant funds or be zero cost to tax payers of Jasper County. Councilman Sauls moved as Vice Chairwoman Clark second the motion. Councilman Brantley asked Ms. Steele how she planned to inform the loved ones of those buried of the relocation of the cemetery. Ms. Steele answered that it is itemized and they are working through an attorney to contact the families as it is a process that is statutorily done. Vice Chairwoman Clark wanted to be sure that the families do know, and Ms. Steele answered that they do know and that it's a process. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes.

Sandy Steele – Professional Services Proposal – Sherwood Tract Entrance

Ms. Steele stated there is a little small house located at the entrance of Sherwood in which she has secured a grant to cover the cost of demolition and clearing of land there will actually be a place to drive into and bring prospects.

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairwoman seconds the Motion. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Vice Chairwoman Clark asked Ms. Steele what they were going to do with the big house located in the back of said property and Ms. Steele stated that no plans have been made at that time for that home.

Council Members' Comments

Councilman Brantley stated that he attended the Emancipation Proclamation Program the first of the year and brought greetings from the County Council, adding that it was a very enriching program as the theme was preparing for the 2020 Census.

Councilman Johnson stated that he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year and that Ms. Murdaugh of the Jasper Sun asked for a list of Accomplishments as he hopes everyone read what he wrote in the paper.

Vice Chairwoman Clark asked Councilman Johnson is he was extended an invitation as the Chairman of the County Council to bring greetings for the Emancipation Program? Councilman Johnson stated that he did not know about the Ceremony in particular.

Councilman Sauls stated there's a lot of great things happening as Royal Live Oaks have their ribbon-cutting Friday, January 24, 2020 at their campus at 10:30am, adding that's a great reason for celebrating them and their accomplishments. There will also be the state of the County Breakfast where everyone would hear from the County Council Chairman Henry Etheridge and both Mayors January 29th at 8:30 a.m at the Palmetto Electric Boardroom in Hardeeville. On January 20th the Jasper County Council of Aging has a blood

drive at their Center from 10 a.m. to 3 pm. Also, on January 15th there is the Whyte Hardee Blvd Master Plan kickoff event from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm at Hardeeville City Hall and on January 14th there is an opportunity to meet the Candidates for the vacant seat for the City of Hardeeville Election. That Election will be on January 28th. Councilman Sauls added that he attended the Southern Carolina Alliance Quarterly Board Meeting/ Holiday Event in Walterboro in December and it was a lovely event. Also, an announcement for small business owners through the South Carolina Promise Zone, the Southern Carolina Alliance is administering this program for a small Business Loan from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and many can contact SCA for details. The Business Loan could be for equipment, start-up, brick and mortar etc for small business or existing small family businesses in need of assistance.

Chairman Etheridge stated that he also attended the Event at Southern Carolina Alliance and thanked everyone and the Council for electing him at Chairman, adding that he will do the best job that he can expect to do. Chairman Etheridge stated that the Chairman only has one vote but if he has more than more one vote, then he can change things and he looks forward to being in charge of the meetings this year and usually Chairman usually serves (2) Years however this is an election Year, also adding that he has some pretty big shoes to fill.

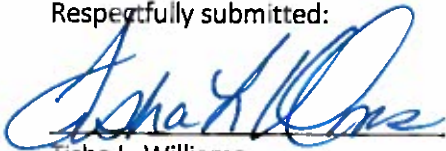
Administrator's Report presented to Council by Mr. Fulghum for informational purposes only as no action is needed on any items.

Adjourn

Councilman Sauls moved and Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Tisha L. Williams
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



Henry Etheridge
Chairman